

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the present application. In the pending Office Action, the Examiner has taken the position that the claims are drawn to two distinct inventions.

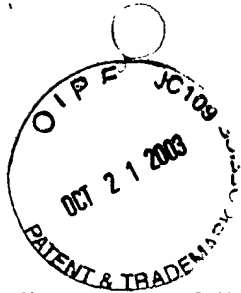
Specifically, the Examiner has grouped the claims as follows:

I Claims 1-8

II Claim 9-18.

Applicant elects without traverse the claims of group I (claims 1-8). Claims 9-18 are hereby withdrawn and Applicant reserves the right to pursue these claims and others in one or more continuation/divisional applications.

The Examiner further characterized the claims as directed to patentably distinct species. In particular, the Examiner has identified Specie I as including Figs. 1-14 and Specie II as including Figs. 15-17B. Applicants elect without traverse Specie I. All of claims 1-8 read on these figures, and claim 1 appears to be generic to claims 1-8.



CONCLUSION

The Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4255 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,
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